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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BAA

DECEMBER 23, 1948 SS-73

Land Values Continue to Rise

U. S. farm land values past 12 months continued strong despite leveling off in net earnings. Rose 8 percent, same as year earlier. Compares with about 12 percent average for the war years. Increase from pre-war ('35-'39) 113 percent. This is only two-fifths as much as increase in net farm income during same period.

Above Post-War I Peak in Most States

Land values are now above the 1920 peak in all but 12 States ... N. C., 50 percent higher; R. I., N. J., Ky., Cal., 40 percent higher. Of States below the 1920 peak, S. D. values are only 54 percent as high; Mo. and Iowa 71 and 72 percent as high.

Values Up 2 Percent Since July —Same Period in '47, Only 1 Percent

The increase in U. S. land values since July was 2 percent. Compares with 1 percent same period year ago. States where land rose most last 4 months were Mont., 7 percent; La., 6; Oreg., Okla., Ga., 5. Rise in West South Central States, 3 percent; Corn Belt and most of Southeast only 1 percent.

Strong Demand for Part-Time Farms

Dealers in areas with large industrial development--especially New England, South Atlantic, and Pacific States--report strong demand for small farms, rural homes and part-time farms ... Buyers in such areas tend to be selective as to location and improvements, often pay prices out of line with farm's agricultural value.

Year's Crops Far Ahead of Other Years

Year-end crop roundup shows output far in excess of any other year, thanks to better farming, economic incentive, and good weather. Total is more than a third larger than in '23-'32, base period. Harvested acreage is not much larger than last year, nor of war-time average.

Yields Up More Than Half

Yields per acre--composite of all crops--are more than half again larger than in '23-'32.

Corn Beats '47 Big Crop by 400 Million Bushels

The outstanding corn crop is ahead of last year's previous record by about 400 million bushels; per acre yield of 42.7 bushels is 6 bushels more than ever before.

Other Record Crops

Flaxseed, peanuts, rice, pecans and cranberries are other record crops. Wheat production was exceeded only in '47. Other near-record crops are oats, sorghum grain, potatoes, dry beans, popcorn and citrus fruits. Larger than average crops of hay, cotton, barley, tobacco, sugarcane for sugar, hops, grapes, cherries, and apricots were harvested.

Year-End Estimates '48, With Comparisons

Corn, 3,651 million bushels. Production last year, 2,384 million; average, 2,814 million.
Wheat, 1,288 million bushels. Last year, 1,367 million; average, 943 million.
Oats, 1,492 million bushels. Last year, 1,199 million; average, 1,232 million.
Barley, 317 million bushels. Last year, 281 million; average, 299 million.
Rye, 26 million bushels. Last year, 26 million; average, 37 million.
Buckwheat, 6.3 million bushels. Last year, 7.3 million; average, 7 million.
Flaxseed, 53 million bushels. Last year, 40.5 million; average, 26.8 million.
Rice, 81 million bushels. Last year, 78 million; average, 60 million.
Sorghum grain, 131.6 million bushels. Last year, 96.0 million; average, 99.8 million.
Hay (all), 99.8 million tons. Last year, 102.8 million, average, 97.6 million.
Beans (dry edible, 100 lbs.), 20.8 million bags. Last year, 17.2 million; average, 16.7 million.

Peas (dry field, 100 lbs.), 3.6 million bags. Last year, 6.5 million; average, 5.3 million.

Soybeans, 220 million bushels. Last year, 184 million; average, 135 million.

Cotton, 14.9 million bales. Last year, 11.9 million; average, 12 million.

Peanuts, 2.3 billion pounds. Last year, 2.2 billion; average, 1.8 billion.

Potatoes, 446 million bushels. Last year, 389 million; average, 392 million.

Sweetpotatoes, 49.8 million bushels. Last year, 55.7 million; average, 64.9 million.

Tobacco, 1.9 billion pounds. Last year, 2.1 billion; average, 1.7 billion.

Sugarcane (sugar and seed), 6.3 million tons. Last year, 5.3 million; average, 6.1 million.

Sugar beets, 9.4 million tons. Last year, 12.5 million; average, 9.8 million.

Broomcorn, 30 thousand tons. Last year, 34 thousand; average, 43 thousand.

Hops, 49.8 million pounds. Last year, 50.1 million; average, 43.5 million.

1948 Fruit Crop Estimates

Apples, 90.3 million bushels. Production last year, 113 million; average, 115 million.

Peaches, 65.7 million bushels. Last year, 82.3 million; average, 66.7 million.

Pears, 26.4 million bushels. Last year, 35.3 million; average, 30.2 million.

Grapes, 3.0 million tons. Last year, 3.0 million; average, 2.7 million.

Cherries (12 States), 217 thousand tons. Last year, 173 thousand tons; average, 170 thousand tons.

Apricots (3 States), 250 thousand tons. Last year, 202 thousand; average, 240 thousand.

Cranberries (5 States), 922 thousand barrels. Last year, 790 thousand; average, 674 thousand.

Pecans, 154 million pounds. Last year, 118.6 million; average, 109.5 million.

Feed Grains Produced 137.4 Million Tons

Production of feed grains--corn, oats, barley, and sorghum grain--estimated at 137.4 million tons will exceed the previous record in '46 by more than 13 million tons. 10-year average has been 108.5 million tons.

Food Grains, 41.4 Million Tons

Food grain production--wheat, rice, rye, and buckwheat--will total about 41.4 million tons. This compares with 43.7 million tons last year and 30.9 million average.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE			PARITY PRICE
	Oct. 15 1948	Nov. 15 1948	Nov. 15 1948	
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.98		2.04	2.18
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.38		1.21	1.59
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 10.4		10.6	11.9
Cotton, lb.	ct. 31.07		30.52	30.63
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.42		1.44	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 24.60		21.80	18.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 22.10		21.40	13.40
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol. 25.00		24.90	16.70
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 22.10		22.00	14.50
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 67.8		64.3	2/ 69.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 1/ 4.91		4.90	2/ 4.35
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 29.9		29.3	28.2
Eggs, doz.	ct. 54.7		58.3	2/ 63.2

1/ Revised

2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

All Grains, 178.7 Million Tons

Production of 8 grains--4 feed and 4 food--will total about 178.7 million tons compared with 139.1 million last year and 139.3 million average.

Significant Drop in Cotton Estimate

Cotton production estimate December 1 was down from the November forecast by 229 thousand bales...November weather bad for harvesting and ginnings especially light. New estimate is 14.9 million bales compared with last year's crop of 11.9 million. Average has been about 12 million bales.

Cottonseed May Exceed 6 Million Tons

Cottonseed production is expected to reach about 6,036,000 tons, based on experience past 5 years, ratio of cotton to seed. Cottonseed produced last year totaled 4,681,000 tons; 10-year average, 4,947,000 tons. (No official estimate until total bales ginned are reported in May.)

Big Acreage Seeded for '49 Wheat

Acreage seeded to winter wheat, 61.4 million, compares with 58.2 million last year and is a fourth larger than average. Another big wheat crop indicated.

November Milk Production Up From Year Ago

Milk per cow in November was record high for the month. Number of cows continued down--smallest for the month in 18 years. But the slightly more than 8 billion pounds produced was up from last year, also up from '37-'46 average for the month (7.9 billion). Production was lower, however, than in 5 of the past seven years. Production per capita, 1.82 pounds per person, per day, was 2nd lowest on record.

Eggs First 11 Months, Same As Year Ago

Eggs produced first 11 months total 51.4 billion eggs, about same as year ago but up from average by 17 percent. A 2-percent increase in rate of lay made up for the 2-percent fewer hens. In November 3.5 billion eggs were laid, up from year ago by 7 percent and almost 1½ times 10-year average. Potential layers December 1 totaled 434.9 million, down 5 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below average.

Poultry Prices Up From Year Ago

Farmers averaged 58.3 cents dozen for eggs mid-November; 53.4 year ago; 36.9 for 10-year average. Live weight chickens brought 29.3 cents a pound, compared with 24.9 year earlier. Turkeys brought farmers 46.1 cents live weight, up 26 percent from record high for November in '46. Prices last year, 35.7 10-year average, 25 cents.

More Poultry Canned This Year

Poultry canned or used in canning first 10 months of this year totaled 122.5 million pounds. This compares with 69.5 million pounds last year--a 76 percent increase. Quantity canned in October alone totaled 14.4 million pounds, a 54-percent increase over same month last year.

Big Climb in Soybean Acreage Past 20 Years

Soybean acreage for all purposes increased from less than 2½ million in '28 to about 13½ million during last 5 years. Acreage harvested for beans climbed from a half million to about 11 million acres (See Technical Bulletin 966, "Soybeans in American Farming," BAE).

Additional Production Goals Suggested

Continued high consumer demands, as well as the need for increased attention to restoring better crop rotations on the Nation's farms, are reflected in additional production goals for '48, suggested to State USDA councils December 1. Increases are sought for milk production, chickens raised on farms, turkeys, stock sheep and lambs, sweetpotatoes, legume and grass seeds, and tame hay. Continued high level production of summer vegetables is suggested. Somewhat smaller acreages are indicated for flaxseed, and rice, but acreages of both would remain well above their prewar averages.

Prices Received Off 6 Points; Paid, 2 Points

Prices received by farmers dropped 6 index points, or 2 percent, mid-October to mid-November. Lower prices for hogs, citrus fruits, corn, butterfat, tobacco and cotton were only partially offset by increases in food grains--wheat, rye, and rice. Prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, were down only 2 points, or less than 1 percent. Main drop was from lower family living items, such as clothing and shoes. No change in farm production costs, lower feed prices being offset by higher prices of autos, trucks, and farm machinery. Prices received November, 271; October, 277; November year ago 287. Prices

paid, 247; October, 249; November year ago, 241. Compared with the record high, prices received are down 36 points while prices paid are down only 4 points.

Business Continues Active

Over-all economic activity is high. Industrial production has reached a new peacetime peak. Steels and motors--the still short of demand--have stepped up to a post-war record. Few people are unemployed...consumers' incomes still high. Civilian employment in November totaled 59.9 million, compared with 58.6 million year earlier and only 57 million 2 years ago.

Nearly All Farms Owned by Individuals--Family Farm, Chief Unit in Our Economy

Individuals own about 87 percent of all farm land in the U. S. This leaves only 13 percent owned by corporations, partnerships, and public agencies, based on the '45 census and a follow-up Nation-wide survey. Acreage held by individuals totaled some 994 million acres. The commercial family farm remains the chief unit in our agricultural economy. (Fuller details in the December "Agricultural Situation."

Further Decline in "Market Basket" Cost

Family "market basket" cost \$689, retail, in October, a decline of \$12 from \$701 in September. This is the third month of decline since the record high of \$708 in July. Despite declines, October retail prices still were 49 percent above the '45 average and almost 4 percent higher than a year ago. Farm value of the basket declined more than the retail value--from \$372 in September to \$357 in October.

Farmer Gets 52 Cents of Food Dollar

Farmer's share of consumer's food dollar declined to 52 cents in October. Farmer's share in September, 53 cents; October year ago, record high of 55 cents.

Higher Expenses Bring Lower Net Income--Even Though Farmers' '48 Receipts Are Up

Farmers' cash receipts for '48 are now indicated slightly larger than last year. But with production expenses up even more, net returns will be down from '47. Expected cash receipts, \$30.8 billion; last year, \$30.2 billion. Total volume of marketings will be slightly smaller than last year; average prices for the year, a little higher.

Farm Building Activity Measured by Survey

Based on a sample survey, about 4 percent of the farmers of the country built new farm houses or had houses under construction in '47, probably about 240,000 houses. Some had been started the year before, leaving an estimated 160,000 houses started last year. Even more--about 23 percent--repaired existing homes. Farm buildings other than homes were repaired or remodeled by about 15 percent of the farmers, while the same class of buildings were put up new by 13 percent. Applying survey rates to total number of U. S. farms, existing homes were repaired or remodeled on nearly 1½ million farms; new buildings other than homes were under way on close to 800 thousand farms; and farm buildings other than homes were repaired on about 900 thousand farms. (Ask for full report of Survey dated 12-10-'48.)

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Nov. 1948
Prices received by farmers	1910-14= 100	271
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14= 100	247
Parity ratio	1910-14= 100	110
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14= 100	275
Retail prices of food	1910-14= 100	1/ 273
Farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	1/ 440
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14= 100	2/ 483
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Nov. 1947	Jan.-Nov. 1948
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	111.3	108.1
Eggs, (Bil.)	51.6	51.4
Beef, (Dr. wt. mil. lb.)	3/ 6287	3/ 5271
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt. mil. lb.)	3/ 594	3/ 545
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	3/ 7320	3/ 6979
All meats (Dr. wt. mil. lb.)	3/ 14936	3/ 13441
1/ October figure.		
2/ Factory payroll per employed worker. September figure.		
3/ January-October.		